

Name: _____

Holiness



the message of Leviticus

C o n t e n t s P a g e

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Introduction to Leviticus

Do you want to know what kind of God you serve? Do you want to know how seriously he takes sin? Do you want to know what is required to be in God's presence? Well, there aren't many places you'll see this more clearly than in Leviticus.

Structure of Leviticus

chapters 1—7	Sacrifices and Offerings
chapters 8—10	The Priesthood
chapters 11—16	Clean and Unclean (Day of Atonement)
chapters 17—22	Practical Holiness
chapters 23—25	The Israelite Calendar
chapters 26-27	Blessings, Curses and Redemption

The Studies

In each study there is an opening question to get you thinking. The questions outside boxes are questions to help you think about what the passage says. The questions inside the box are about what the passage means and the final questions will help you to think about what you need to change in your life to serve Jesus.

Study One ...

The sacrifices

What do you already know about Leviticus?

Leviticus talks lots about sacrifices. In order to understand them, the best place to start is not in Leviticus but Exodus. At the end of Exodus God is giving instructions on how the tabernacle is to look (ch25-31), the Israelites are rebelling against God (ch32-34), and the tabernacle is being constructed (ch35-40).

Read Exodus 25:1-9

What were God's intentions for the tabernacle? (verse 8)

This meant a new beginning for Israel. Here is God undoing what's been done, and bringing people back into his presence. But one thing remains the same. Mankind is still sinful at heart. So how can sinful people approach a Holy God who cannot stand sin?

What do these passages teach us about:

a. Who God's people should serve and follow?

b. What God's people's life priorities should be?

c. What God people's attitude to sin should be?

d. What God's people's purpose in life should be?

Are you one of God's people? why/why not?

If not what do you think is getting in the way of trusting in Jesus and living his way?

Enter the sacrificial system of Israel.

There are 5 types of offerings operating within the life of Israel. We are going to look at two of them. The rest are done for you!

Name of Sacrifice	Types of Animals	Hand-laying?	How is the blood used?	Who gets to eat?	Purpose of Sacrifice
Burnt Leviticus 1:1-17					
Grain / Cereal (Lev 2)	Grain			Priests	
Fellowship/ Peace (Lev 3)	Cattle, Sheep, Goats	Yes	Poured on altar sides	Priest & People	
Sin Leviticus 4:1-7 and 13-21					
Guilt (Lev 5:14-6:7)	Rams	Probably	Poured on altar sides	Priests	To secure forgiveness for intentional / unintentional sins.(5:16, 19; 6:7)

What is the common idea in the purpose of each of the sacrifices?

What characteristic does the bull have when brought before God at the tabernacle? (Lev 1:3)

Why would that be important? (think about the purpose of the sacrifices)

What role does the bull play in Leviticus 1:4?

In the Present	In the Future

Study six ... Living a Holy Life

Why do youth group leaders talk about Jesus all the time?

Read the following passages and fill in the table on the next page.

What does God do for his people now in the present and what will God do for his people in the future?

Read Romans 8:17-27

Read Ephesians 1:3-14

Read Revelation 21:1-4

After a sacrifice what is God's attitude to the person who offered the sacrifice?

Read Hebrews 10:5-12

What effect does the sacrifice of Jesus have on believers?

Why is Jesus' sacrifice better than the sacrifices in Leviticus?

How should this change our lives?

- ☐ **It doesn't change my life at all**
- ☐ **Because I am made holy I will live the way Jesus wants me to.**
- ☐ **I will believe God exists**
- ☐ **I will buy some cows to sacrifice**
- ☐ **I will build an altar in the backyard**
- ☐ **I will trust in Jesus because his sacrifice makes me right with God**

Pray

If you were to read the rest of the Old Testament, Israel experience every curse outlined in Leviticus 26. Famine, war, exile, and the destruction of God's dwelling place the temple. But right at the end of the Old Testament we see a glimmer of hope. It's not in return from exile, but in the words of the prophets who look forward to something or someone who will break the endless cycle of sin.

In Ezekiel 34-37, Ezekiel pictures a people who no longer defile themselves, who are shepherded by a true and righteous king, and have God once more walking in their midst. And it's not in their return from exile that we see this fulfilled, but in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

In what way do you think Jesus is the answer to the hope and problems we see raised in Leviticus 26?

Pray

d. verses 23-26

e. verses 27-39

Read Leviticus 26:40-46

To have hope, what did Israel need to do? (v40-41)

What response would this prompt from God? (v42, 44-45)

Study Two... clean and unclean

What are some things that your parents say you are not allowed to do?

Read Leviticus 11:1-46

How are the Israelites supposed to react towards things that are unclean? (v10-12, 13, 20, 23, 41)

What happens when the Israelites come into contact with the things spoken about in this passage? (v24—28)

From Leviticus 13:46 and 15:31, what is the result of becoming unclean?

What does this teach us about God?

Read Leviticus 11:41-47

What is God's reason for the laws?

What is God's reason for the Israelites following him?

What was the reason God wanted to bless Israel in this way?

Read Leviticus 26:14-39

What was going to set these curses in motion?
(v14, 18, 21, 23, 27)

Describe the curses that would come upon Israel in these circumstances?

a. verses 14-17

b. verses 18-20

c. verses 21-22

Study five...

Blessings and curses

What's the worst punishment you have ever got?

Read Leviticus 26:1-13

Describe the three different blessings God offered Israel:

a. verses 3-5

b. verses 6-8

c. verses 9-13

What enabled Israel to receive these blessings? (v13)

Pretend you are talking to a kindergarten kid. Write a sentence that would explain the answers to the last two questions.

Read Romans 6:17-23

What kind of slavery have Christians been saved from?

How then should we live? (verse 22)

Tick the things that would show you are living a holy life.

☐

Obeying parents

☐

Downloading music you haven't paid for

☐

Studying the bible

☐

Bullying people

☐

Trusting Jesus

☐

Lying to your teachers

☐

Trying not to be selfish

Put a star next to the thing above that you need to work on.
How could you do this? Pray about it during the week.

Pray

What parts of our lives do we keep separate from God?

How can we surrender ALL of our lives to Jesus?

Pray

What do you think was the purpose of the feasts and years in these two chapters?

How did the feasts and years remind Israel of the way they were supposed to be living their lives?

Read Hebrews 13:11-14

What event do we look to, to remind us of who we were and who we are now?

How does this encourage us to serve Jesus?

Study three... day of atonement

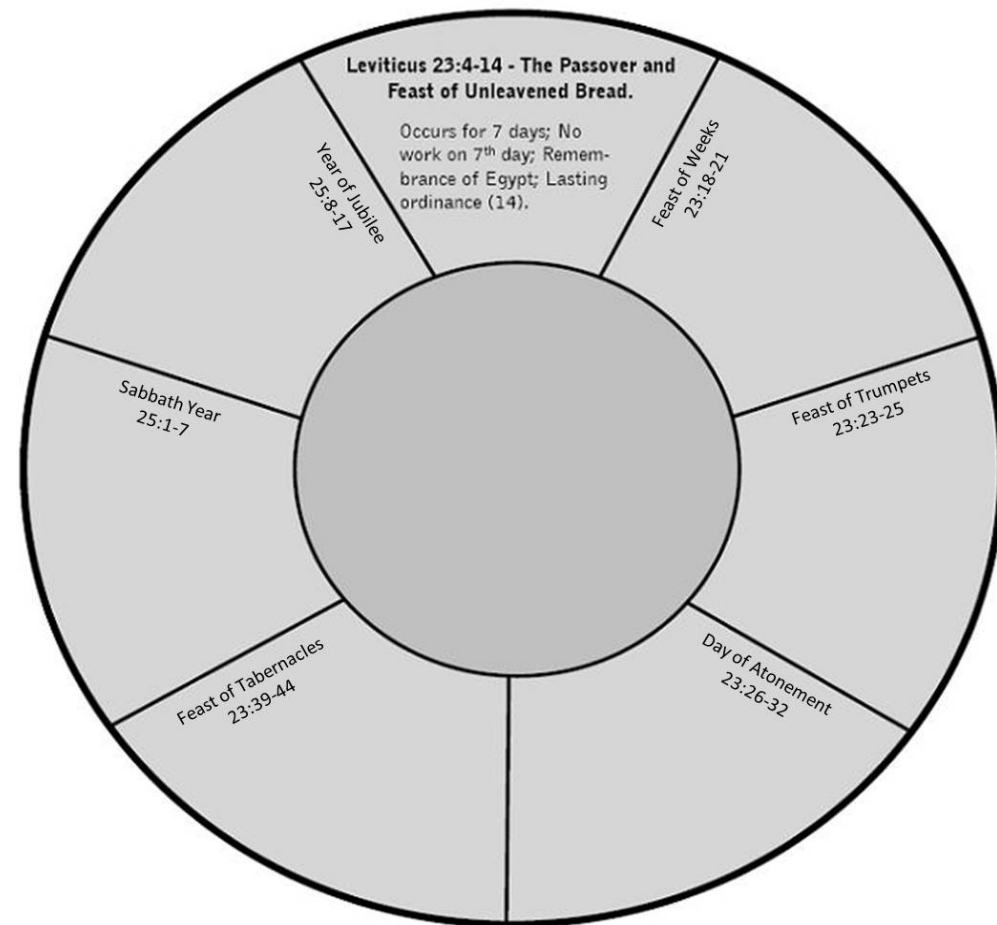
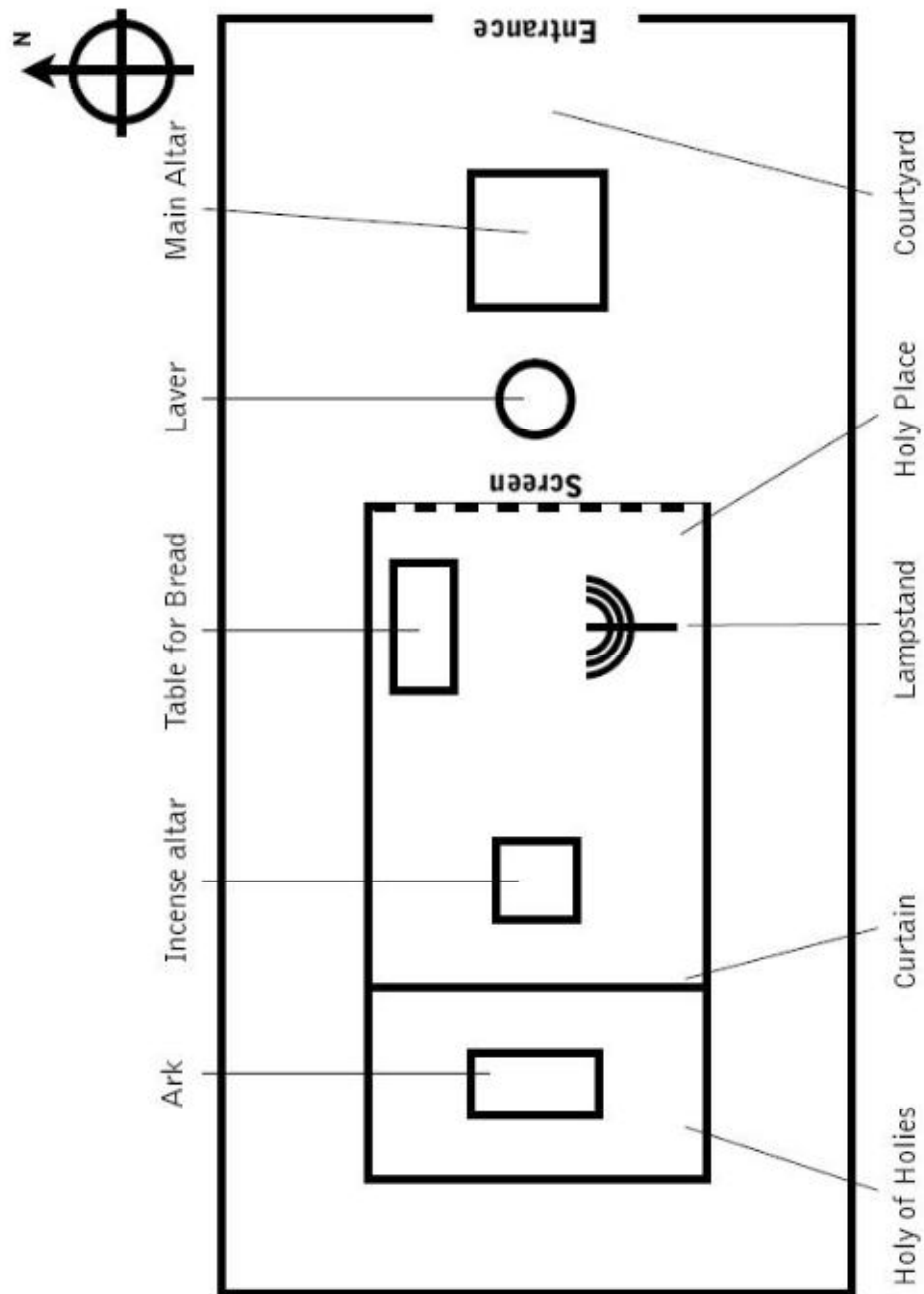
What does atonement mean?

Read Leviticus 16:1-34

What was so special about the Most Holy Place that meant Aaron wasn't allowed to enter it whenever he liked? (v2)

What precautions was the High Priest supposed to take when he entered the tabernacle, and why? (v13)

What did the blood do on the Day of Atonement? (v15-19, 33)



Study four ... rituals of life

What rituals or habits do you have in your family?

Read each of the sections mentioned in the circle sections. Write down the key parts of each celebration. In the centre, write down the similar ideas or phrases that occur in each of the event descriptions. Use the space underneath if you need more room.

How did Aaron atone for his sins and those of the priests?
(v11-14)

Who were the two goats for? (v8)

What happened to the two goats? (v9-10 and 20-22)

So, one goat was sacrificed to the LORD as a sin offering, and the other was just sent out into the desert. Notice that the goat in the desert was sent **outside** the camp, and it carried **all** the sins of Israel for the entire year away from where God dwelt. The Israelites were atoned for, they were made holy because their sins were taken away.

If you were an Israelite, what kinds of thoughts might have passed through your mind as you sat at home on the Day of Atonement?

How do events within this chapter demonstrate how God was trying to bring Israel back to a right relationship with him?

What were the shortcomings of the Day of Atonement?
(v2, 6, 34)

Read Hebrews 7:23-28

How is Jesus better than the High Priest?

How does Jesus fulfil the role of the scapegoat?

How does this change our lives?

- ☐ It means Jesus is the only way to be right with God
- ☐ It means we need to have a Day of Atonement every now and again just to be sure
- ☐ It means our whole lives will be focused on serving Jesus because of what he has achieved for us
- ☐ It means I am completely free and can do what I want

What are some ways we can serve Jesus as teenagers?

Pray